

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-36, 42, 43 and 45-50 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended to include the allowable features of claim 2, claim 49 is added to include the features of claims 1 and 21 and claim 50 is added to includes the features of claims 1, 22 and 24. The objectionable language of claim 1 was also removed before making the amendments.

An Election of Species was required in this application. Accordingly, Applicant elected Fig. 1. Claims 1, 7-19, 21-36, 42, 43 and 45-50 read on elected Fig. 1. Claims 1, 11, 12, 22-24 and 37 remain generic to all species. Applicant thus retains claims 3-6 and 20 as these claims depend from claim 1. Applicant also requests rejoinder of claims 3-6 and 20 when claim 1 is found to be allowable, because claims 3-6 and 20 depend from claim 1 and would thus be allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2, 9-12, 14, 15, 17, 21-24 and 46-48 in the May 16, 2006 Office Action, and the allowance of claims 25-36, 42 and 43. By this amendment, the allowable features of claim 2 have been incorporated into claim 1 and claims 49 and 50 include the allowable features of claim 21 and claims 22 and 24, respectively.

The rejection of claims 1, 2, 7-19, 21-24 and 46-48 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, has been rendered moot by the withdrawal of the objectionable language.

The rejection of claims 1, 7, 8, 13, 16, 18, 19 and 45 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over DE 3426612 (DE '612) has been rendered moot by the amendment to claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:SMS/sxb

Attachment:
Amendment Transmittal

Date: December 29, 2006

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